HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO
DEVELOP PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AND RESTORE ILIAHI,
HAWAII'S ENDEMIC SANDALWOOD.

1   WHEREAS, Hawaii's native sandalwood tree, iliahi, is rare
2 and precious; and
3
4   WHEREAS, iliahi, once prolific throughout the Hawaiian
5 archipelago, is now popularly believed to be nearly extinct due
6 to its exploitation for international sale because of its sweet
7 smelling heartwood; and
8
9   WHEREAS, iliahi, the most historic tree of Hawaii, caused
10 the sandalwood era from 1789 to 1830, which transformed Hawaii
11 from a thriving self-sufficient economy to a commercial economy
12 based on the international trade of sandalwood; and
13
14   WHEREAS, the sandalwood trade was the stimulus for the
15 creation of the Hawaiian flag and Hawaii's first written law,
16 which was a tax on sandalwood and is believed to be the first
17 tax on any wood in the United States of America; and
18
19   WHEREAS, trade in iliahi was the first use of credit by
20 Hawaiian chiefs, as it was used to secure payment to buy guns,
21 ships, and western finery; and
22
23   WHEREAS, iliahi is perhaps the oldest tree species in the
24 Hawaiian archipelago, with sandcastings and reports in 1789 of
25 its cutting on Laysan island, which is twenty-two million years
26 old; and
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28   WHEREAS, evolution over millions of years has caused at
29 least six species of sandalwood to evolve throughout the islands
30 of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Hawaii; and

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1   WHEREAS, iliahi is an ecological keystone of the health of
2   the Hawaiian community as it is a companion plant that thrives
3   symbiotically and is hemiparasitic with other native Hawaiian
4   plants; and
5
6   WHEREAS, there is no regulation or oversight on the
7   harvest, sale, or destruction of sandalwood on privately owned
8   or managed land and the Department of Land and Natural Resources
9   believes that additional protection is needed through regulatory
10   controls; and
11
12   WHEREAS, the Legislature introduced six sandalwood
13   protection bills in three separate legislative sessions, but
14   each bill failed to gain legislative approval; and
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16   WHEREAS, although the Department of Land and Natural
17   Resources was requested by resolution to study sandalwood
18   protection legislation and to report its findings to the
19   Legislature in 2013 and 2014, the Department of Land and Natural
20   Resources has not fulfilled the requests; and
21
22   WHEREAS, Honolulu will host the World Conservation Congress
23   in 2016, when the world will spotlight Hawaii's efforts in
24   conservation, including conservation of Hawaii's native
25   sandalwood; now, therefore,
26
27   BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28   Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29   Session of 2015, that the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
30   in consultation with the Legislative Reference Bureau, is
31   requested to develop proposed legislation to protect and restore
32   iliahi, Hawaii's endemic sandalwood; and
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34   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
35   Resources is requested to consider prior proposed legislation,
36   testimony, and reports in developing its proposed legislation;
37   and

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1   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
2   Resources is requested to submit a report of its findings and
3   recommendations, including proposed legislation, no later than
4   twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
5   2016; and
6
7   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
8   Resources is requested to include in its report an explanation
9   on why the Department has not responded to requests to study
10 sandalwood protection contained in House Resolution No. 147
11 (2014) and Senate Resolution No. 93 (2013); and
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13   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the United States
15 Fish and Wildlife Service, Chair of the Board of Land and
16 Natural Resources, Administrator of the Division of Forestry and
17 Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Chair
18 of the Board of Agriculture, and Acting Director of the
19 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY: _____

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